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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/560,917 | 05/17/2006 | Yasutaka Kodama | F-8908 | 6024 |
| 28107 7590 10/22/2009 JORDAN AND HAMBURG LLP 122 EAST 42ND STREET SUITE 4000 NEW YORK, NY 10168 | | | | |
| EXAMINER | | | | |
| MATTIA, SCOTT A | | | | |
| ART UNIT | | PAPER NUMBER | | |
| 3689 | | | | |
| MAIL DATE | | DELIVERY MODE | | |
| 10/22/2009 | | PAPER | | |

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/560,917

Applicant(s)

KODAMA, YASUTAKA

Examiner

SCOTT A. MATTIA

Art Unit

3689

Period for Reply -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 December 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 4-5 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 21 February 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/5508)
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date 12/15/2005

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION
Status of Claims

1. This action is in reply to the Application filed on 12/15/05.
2. Claims 1-5 are currently pending and have been examined.

Information Disclosure Statement

3. The Information Disclosure Statement filed on 12/15/05 has been considered. An initialed copy of the Form 1449 is enclosed herewith.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

4. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

5. Claims 2 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.
6. Claim 2 recites the limitation "the administrator side" in line 11, "the public telephone line network" in line 15, and "the homepage server" in line 23. There is insufficient antecedent basis for these limitations in the claim.
7. Claim 3 recites the limitation "the administrator side" in line 11, and "the homepage server" in line 20. There is insufficient antecedent basis for these limitations in the claim.
8. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Objections

9. Claims 4 and 5 are objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c) as being in improper form because a multiple dependent claim should refer to other claims in the alternative only. See MPEP § 608.01(n). Accordingly, the claims have not been further treated on the merits.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

10. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

11. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

12. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kuroda (5859778) in view of Fujimoto (2003/0211885). Kuroda relates to a system for remotely managing a machine by means of a central control apparatus such as a personal computer or the like by connecting the machine controlled by a control device, e.g., a micro-computer with the central control apparatus via communication means. Fujimoto relates to a system of improved monitoring function against wrong or fraudulent acts, and a particularly, a game facility monitoring system comprising a plurality of game machines or game-related devices provided with detecting means that detects the state of a device and the operation of the device resulting from wrong or fraudulent acts.

13. **CLAIM 1** – Kuroda discloses a coin laundry management system comprising:

- a coin laundry device (“a plurality of clothes-washers and a plurality of dryers installed

are used by the payment with coins”, Kuroda, col. 1, lines 16-18)

- a control device that controls the operation of the coin laundry device based on the coin laundry device data received from various sensors (“operations of a plurality of laundry machines such as clothes-washers and dryers set in the laundrettes are controlled by a microcomputer that takes in signals from rotational speed sensors, thermistors, micro switches, and the like respectively installed in several parts of each machine”, Kuroda, col. 1, lines 30-34; “microcomputer controls the operations of the laundry machine according to the signals received from the sensors”, col. 1, lines 40-41)
- a data controller that sends the data from the control device (“microcomputer ... transmits the data to a data controller (hereinafter called as the DTC)”, Kuroda, col. 1, lines 40-44)
- a coin laundry store where the coin laundry device, the data controller and the network camera are provided (“In a laundrette, for example, wherein a plurality of clothes-washers and a plurality of dryers installed are used by the payment with coins”, Kuroda, col. 1, lines 16-18; i.e., a sel-service laundry facility, or laundromat)
- a central control device that is connected to the data controller via a line of communication (“Each DTC [data controller] is connected to the central control apparatus using a personal computer disposed in a management company via a public telephone line”, Kuroda, col. 1, lines 46-48; I.e., the telephone line represents a line of communication connecting the data controller (DTC) and central control apparatus.); and
- the coin laundry device controlled remotely based on coin laundry device data and the moving images of the coin laundry store that are sent to the central control device from

the data controller and the network camera via a line of communication (This claim language represents and intended use limitation for the claimed structural elements of the system, and is not accorded patentable weight. Even if this language were given patentable weight, Kuroda discloses: “remotely managing a machine by means of a central control apparatus such as a personal computer or the like by connecting the machine controlled by a control device, e.g., a micro-computer with the central control apparatus via communication means”, Kuroda, col. 1, lines 8-13; and “wherein a plurality of clothes-washers and a plurality of dryers installed are used by the payment with coins or prepaid cards, when a management system that carries out centralized monitoring of the laundry machine to check the presence of failures, presence of troubles, and the sales amount and other information thereby to control the machine”, col. 1, lines 16-22)

Kuroda does not explicitly disclose:

- a network camera that converts still images to moving image data and sends it to the central controller via a line of communication

Fujimoto discloses: a network camera that converts still images to moving image data and sends it to the central controller via a line of communication (“the entire hall of a ... facility is watched with a single or plural monitoring video cameras”, Fujimoto, par. 7, lines 1-3; “a system control computer 7, an employee's card device 8, and a video camera 9, all connected each other with a network (such as a LAN)”, par. 62, lines 6-9). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the laundry management system disclosed by Kuroda to include networked video cameras connected to a central controller, as disclosed by Fujimoto. One of ordinary skill in the art at the time the

invention was made would have been motivated to modify the system of Kuroda in this way, since the networked video monitoring would permit the laundry machine owner to monitor abnormal, wrong, or illegal acts (Fujimoto, par. 2, lines 3-4). Although Fujimoto does not directly pertain to the field of coin laundry devices, a reference in a field different from that of applicant's endeavor may be reasonably pertinent if it is one which, because of the matter with which it deals, logically would have commended itself to an inventor's attention in considering his or her invention as a whole (MPEP 2141.01). The prior art of record provides common essential elements, including networked video monitoring connected to a central system, even though the prior art does not pertain to coin laundry, but rather game-related devices. Furthermore, the element disclosed by Fujimoto solves the pertinent problem (i.e., remote device/facility monitoring). Additionally, the claimed invention is merely a combination of old elements, and in the combination, each element merely would have performed the same function as it did separately, and one of ordinary skill in the art would have recognized that the results of the combination were predictable.

14. Claims 2-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kuroda (5859778) in view of Mottur (US 2002/0018124) and Blad (US 2001/0048374). Mottur related generally to delivering video content over a computer network, and more particularly to providing content related to live action feeds, with cameras controlled over the network by network users. Blad relates to monitoring coin-operated machines, and, more specifically, to monitoring a number of coin-operated machines from a remote location via a computer network and/or the internet.
15. **CLAIM 2** – Kuroda discloses a coin laundry management system comprising:

- a coin laundry concentrated control section which is provided with a coin laundry device (“a plurality of clothes-washers and a plurality of dryers installed are used by the payment with coins”, Kuroda, col. 1, lines 16-18), a control device that controls the operation of the coin laundry device based on the coin laundry device data loaded from various sensors (“operations of a plurality of laundry machines such as clothes-washers and dryers set in the laundrettes are controlled by a microcomputer that takes in signals from rotational speed sensors, thermistors, micro switches, and the like respectively installed in several parts of each machine”, Kuroda, col. 1, lines 30-34; “microcomputer controls the operations of the laundry machine according to the signals received from the sensors”, col. 1, lines 40-41) and also stores the loaded data (“microcomputer controls the operations of the laundry machine according to the signals received from the sensors, stores the data such as the operation state, remaining time of operation, sales amount and the like, and transmits the data to a data controller (hereinafter called as the DTC)”, Kuroda, col. 1, lines 40-44), and a data controller that sends the data from the control device (“microcomputer ... transmits the data to a data controller (hereinafter called as the DTC)”, Kuroda, col. 1, lines 40-44);
- a coin laundry store which is provided with the coin laundry concentrated control section (“In a laundrette, for example, wherein a plurality of clothes-washers and a plurality of dryers installed are used by the payment with coins”, Kuroda, col. 1, lines 16-18; i.e., a sel-service laundry facility, or laundromat);
- a central control device, which is set at the administrator side and has a monitor, connected to the coin laundry concentrated control section via a line of communication

("Each DTC [data controller] is connected to the central control apparatus using a personal computer disposed in a management company via a public telephone line", Kuroda, col. 1, lines 46-48; I.e., the telephone line represents a line of communication connecting the data controller (DTC) and central control apparatus; wherein, the "central control apparatus gives a screen display", col. 2, lines 1-2, i.e., a monitor);

- the coin laundry concentrated control section and the central control device connected via the public telephone line network ("Each DTC [data controller] is connected to the central control apparatus using a personal computer disposed in a management company via a public telephone line", Kuroda, col. 1, lines 46-48; Referring to FIG. 1, "DTC 7 is connected to one end of a public telephone line 5 via a line control/data transmission unit 6, for example, a modem. Another end of the public telephone line 5 is connected to an I/F 3d of a central control apparatus 3 using a personal computer via a line control/data transmission unit 4 of the management company 1", col. 6, lines 24-29)
- a monitor of the central control device ("central control apparatus gives a screen display", Kuroda, col. 2, lines 1-2) displaying the condition of a coin laundry device based on the contents of the coin laundry device data which are sent to the central control device ("in the event of a trouble such as a failure, an abnormality of the machine, stealing of the sales or the like, the microcomputer of the laundry machine in trouble stops the operation of the machine and outputs a transmission request for the central control apparatus to the DTC. When the DTC makes a response, the microcomputer transmits data notifying the occurrence of the trouble to the DTC. The DTC calls the central control apparatus in order to transmit the received trouble data and, when the central control apparatus

responds, transmits the data indicating the occurrence of the trouble. Upon receipt of the data, the central control apparatus gives a screen display, an alarm, etc., to inform the personnel of the trouble being occurred”, Kuroda, col. 1, line 57 to col. 2, line 2);

Kuroda does not explicitly disclose:

- a network camera with zoom, pan and tilt functions that can convert still images of the inside of the store to moving images and send them;
- connecting with an xDSL line, wherein the network camera and the central control device constantly connected to the Internet via an xDSL line;
- the administrator side operating the network camera by the central control device and taking images and converting them to moving image data and sending them to the homepage server of the administrator side which is constantly connected to the Internet; and
- wherein the moving images are uploaded onto the homepage in near real time and displayed on the monitor of the central control device which is constantly connected to the Internet, allowing the administrator side to operate the coin laundry device remotely based on these near real time moving images of the inside of the store and the condition of the coin laundry device that is displayed on the monitor of the central control device

Kuroda in view of Mottur and Blad discloses:

- a network camera with zoom, pan and tilt functions that can convert still images of the inside of the store to moving images and send them – Mottur discloses a network camera with zoom, pan and tilt functions that can convert still images of the inside of the store to moving images and send them (“network users can control camera pan, tilt, zoom, focus,

and camera presets using, in one embodiment, a user interface in the form of a control or touch pad”, par. 20, lines 10-13; “providing real-time continuous streaming video and audio data from at least one remote camera system and/or location, to network users on a network such as the internet an another public or private network. Furthermore, the methods and systems allow the network users to interactively control the cameras using continuous control methods and systems”, Mottur, par. 20, lines 2-8).

- connecting with an xDSL line, wherein the network camera and the central control device constantly connected to the Internet via an xDSL line – Blad discloses a computer network based coin-operated machine monitoring system, and connections via DSL line (“a high bandwidth connection such as DSL, cable modem, T1, or other such connection method well know to those skilled in the data communication arts could be utilized”, Blad, par. 50, lines 29-32; Blad indicates that DSL connections are well known in the art of data communications.; Additionally, a DSL line (and T1, cable modem) implies a constant connection to the internet, via a standard telephone line).
- the administrator side operating the network camera by the central control device (“network users can control camera pan, tilt, zoom, focus, and camera presets using, in one embodiment, a user interface in the form of a control or touch pad”, Mottur, par. 20, lines 10-13; “providing real-time continuous streaming video and audio data from at least one remote camera system and/or location, to network users on a network such as the internet an another public or private network. Furthermore, the methods and systems allow the network users to interactively control the cameras using continuous control methods and systems”, Mottur, par. 20, lines 2-8) and taking images and converting them

- to moving image data ("camera can provide video (and audio) data for display", Mottur, par. 6, lines 12-13) and sending them to the homepage server of the administrator side which is constantly connected to the Internet ("internet websites exist that allow users to obtain live action programming that can be streamed throughout the internet to internet users. These websites can be integrated with one or more cameras, otherwise known as 'webcams,' that can be located at locations to capture a particular field of view", Mottur, par. 5, lines 5-10; i.e., "streamed" video data is "sent" from camera to a webpage); and
- wherein the moving images are uploaded onto the homepage in near real time ("internet websites exist that allow users to obtain live action programming that can be streamed throughout the internet to internet users", Mottur, par. 5, lines 5-7; i.e., "live" implies real time) and displayed on the monitor of the central control device ("Internet users having an internet browser with the necessary plug-ins or software applications, can receive the broadcast image data from the fixed camera locations", Mottur, par. 5, lines 10-13) which is constantly connected to the Internet (Blad discloses a computer network based coin-operated machine monitoring system, and connections via DSL line: "a high bandwidth connection such as DSL, cable modem, T1, or other such connection method well know to those skilled in the data communication arts could be utilized", Blad, par. 50, lines 29-32; Blad indicates that DSL connections are well known in the art of data communications.; Additionally, a DSL line (and T1, cable modem) implies a constant connection to the internet, via a standard telephone line.), allowing the administrator side to operate the coin laundry device remotely based on these near real time moving images of the inside of the store and the condition of the coin laundry device that is displayed on

the monitor of the central control device (This claim language represents and intended use limitation for the claimed structural elements of the system, and is not accorded patentable weight. Even if this language were given patentable weight, Kuroda discloses: “remotely managing a machine by means of a central control apparatus such as a personal computer or the like by connecting the machine controlled by a control device, e.g., a micro-computer with the central control apparatus via communication means”, Kuroda, col. 1, lines 8-13; and “wherein a plurality of clothes-washers and a plurality of dryers installed are used by the payment with coins or prepaid cards, when a management system that carries out centralized monitoring of the laundry machine to check the presence of failures, presence of troubles, and the sales amount and other information thereby to control the machine”, col. 1, lines 16-22)

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the laundry management system disclosed by Kuroda to include networked video cameras with pan, tilt and zoom capability that stream video data over the internet, as disclosed by Mottur, as well as the DSL constant internet connection disclosed by Blad. One of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have been motivated to modify the system of Kuroda in this way, since this would allow management personnel to control the live video image viewed on the central control device (“allow the network users to interactively control the cameras”, Mottur, par. 20, lines 6-7, wherein “video data can be provided in real-time”, par. 6, line 14), thus providing the ability to monitor specific details in the laundry store. Blad indicates that a DSL line is well known in the art of data communications (“a high bandwidth connection such as DSL, cable modem, T1, or other

such connection method well known to those skilled in the data communication arts could be utilized”, Blad, par. 50, lines 29-32), and one skilled in the art would find it obvious to use a high speed internet connection such as DSL for the purpose of network connecting video data signals. Although Mottur does not directly pertain to the field of coin laundry devices, a reference in a field different from that of applicant's endeavor may be reasonably pertinent if it is one which, because of the matter with which it deals, logically would have commended itself to an inventor's attention in considering his or her invention as a whole (MPEP 2141.01). The prior art of record provides common essential elements, including user-controllable networked video monitoring that sends video information over the internet/network, even though the prior art does not pertain to coin laundry, but rather real-time camera control devices. Furthermore, the elements disclosed by Mottur solve the pertinent problem (i.e., remote video monitoring with central control and website streaming). Additionally, the claimed invention is merely a combination of old elements, and in the combination, each element merely would have performed the same function as it did separately, and one of ordinary skill in the art would have recognized that the results of the combination were predictable.

16. **CLAIM 3** – A coin laundry management system comprising:

- a coin laundry concentrated control section which is provided with a coin laundry device (“a plurality of clothes-washers and a plurality of dryers installed are used by the payment with coins”, Kuroda, col. 1, lines 16-18), a control device that controls the operation of the coin laundry device based on the coin laundry device data loaded from various sensors (“operations of a plurality of laundry machines such as clothes-washers

and dryers set in the laundrettes are controlled by a microcomputer that takes in signals from rotational speed sensors, thermistors, micro switches, and the like respectively installed in several parts of each machine”, Kuroda, col. 1, lines 30-34; “microcomputer controls the operations of the laundry machine according to the signals received from the sensors”, col. 1, lines 40-41) and also stores the loaded data (“microcomputer controls the operations of the laundry machine according to the signals received from the sensors, stores the data such as the operation state, remaining time of operation, sales amount and the like, and transmits the data to a data controller (hereinafter called as the DTC)”, Kuroda, col. 1, lines 40-44), and a data controller that sends the data from the control device (“microcomputer ... transmits the data to a data controller (hereinafter called as the DTC)”, Kuroda, col. 1, lines 40-44);

- a coin laundry store which is provided with the coin laundry concentrated control section (“In a laundrette, for example, wherein a plurality of clothes-washers and a plurality of dryers installed are used by the payment with coins”, Kuroda, col. 1, lines 16-18; i.e., a self-service laundry facility, or laundromat);;
- a central control device with a monitor set at the administrator side (“Each DTC [data controller] is connected to the central control apparatus using a personal computer disposed in a management company via a public telephone line”, Kuroda, col. 1, lines 46-48; I.e., the telephone line represents a line of communication connecting the data controller (DTC) and central control apparatus; wherein, the “central control apparatus gives a screen display”, col. 2, lines 1-2, i.e., a monitor);
- the central control device, the coin laundry concentrated control section and the network

camera constantly connected via a prescribed line of communication (“Each DTC [data controller] is connected to the central control apparatus using a personal computer disposed in a management company via a public telephone line”, Kuroda, col. 1, lines 46-48; Referring to FIG. 1, “DTC 7 is connected to one end of a public telephone line 5 via a line control/data transmission unit 6, for example, a modem. Another end of the public telephone line 5 is connected to an I/F 3d of a central control apparatus 3 using a personal computer via a line control/data transmission unit 4 of the management company 1”, col. 6, lines 24-29)

- a monitor of the central control device (“central control apparatus gives a screen display”, Kuroda, col. 2, lines 1-2) displaying the condition of a coin laundry device based on the contents of the coin laundry device data which are sent to the central control device (“in the event of a trouble such as a failure, an abnormality of the machine, stealing of the sales or the like, the microcomputer of the laundry machine in trouble stops the operation of the machine and outputs a transmission request for the central control apparatus to the DTC. When the DTC makes a response, the microcomputer transmits data notifying the occurrence of the trouble to the DTC. The DTC calls the central control apparatus in order to transmit the received trouble data and, when the central control apparatus responds, transmits the data indicating the occurrence of the trouble. Upon receipt of the data, the central control apparatus gives a screen display, an alarm, etc., to inform the personnel of the trouble being occurred”, Kuroda, col. 1, line 57 to col. 2, line 2);

Kuroda does not explicitly disclose:

- a network camera that can convert the images taken to moving images and send them

- the central control device, the coin laundry concentrated control section and the network camera constantly connected to the Internet
- the administrator side operating the network camera by the central control device and taking images and converting them to moving image data and sending the data to the homepage server of the administrator side which is constantly connected to the Internet and taking images and converting them to moving image data and sending them to the homepage server of the administrator side which is constantly connected to the Internet; and
- wherein the moving images are uploaded onto the homepage in near real time which is constantly connected to the Internet, allowing the administrator side to operate the coin laundry device remotely based on these near real time moving images of the inside of the store and the condition of the coin laundry device that is displayed on the monitor of the central control device

Kuroda in view of Mottur and Blad discloses:

- a network camera that can convert the images taken to moving images and send them – Mottur discloses a network camera with zoom, pan and tilt functions that can convert still images of the inside of the store to moving images and send them ("network users can control camera pan, tilt, zoom, focus, and camera presets using, in one embodiment, a user interface in the form of a control or touch pad", par. 20, lines 10-13; "providing real-time continuous streaming video and audio data from at least one remote camera system and/or location, to network users on a network such as the internet an another public or private network. Furthermore, the methods and systems allow the network users to

interactively control the cameras using continuous control methods and systems”, Mottur, par. 20, lines 2-8).

- the central control device, the coin laundry concentrated control section and the network camera constantly connected to the Internet – Blad discloses a computer network based coin-operated machine monitoring system, and connections via DSL line (“a high bandwidth connection such as DSL, cable modem, T1, or other such connection method well know to those skilled in the data communication arts could be utilized”, Blad, par. 50, lines 29-32; Blad indicates that DSL connections are well known in the art of data communications.; Additionally, a DSL line (and T1, cable modem) implies a constant connection to the internet, via a standard telephone line)
- the administrator side operating the network camera by the central control device and taking images and converting them to moving image data and sending the data to the homepage server of the administrator side which is constantly connected to the Internet (“network users can control camera pan, tilt, zoom, focus, and camera presets using, in one embodiment, a user interface in the form of a control or touch pad”, Mottur, par. 20, lines 10-13; “providing real-time continuous streaming video and audio data from at least one remote camera system and/or location, to network users on a network such as the internet an another public or private network. Furthermore, the methods and systems allow the network users to interactively control the cameras using continuous control methods and systems”, Mottur, par. 20, lines 2-8) and taking images and converting them to moving image data (“camera can provide video (and audio) data for display”, Mottur, par. 6, lines 12-13) and sending them to the homepage server of the administrator side

- which is constantly connected to the Internet (“internet websites exist that allow users to obtain live action programming that can be streamed throughout the internet to internet users. These websites can be integrated with one or more cameras, otherwise known as ‘webcams,’ that can be located at locations to capture a particular field of view”, Mottur, par. 5, lines 5-10; i.e., “streamed” video data is “sent” from camera to a webpage); and
- wherein the moving images are uploaded onto the homepage in near real time (“internet websites exist that allow users to obtain live action programming that can be streamed throughout the internet to internet users”, Mottur, par. 5, lines 5-7; i.e., “live” implies real time) and displayed on the monitor of the central control device (“Internet users having an internet browser with the necessary plug-ins or software applications, can receive the broadcast image data from the fixed camera locations”, Mottur, par. 5, lines 10-13) which is constantly connected to the Internet (Blad discloses a computer network based coin-operated machine monitoring system, and connections via DSL line: “a high bandwidth connection such as DSL, cable modem, T1, or other such connection method well know to those skilled in the data communication arts could be utilized”, Blad, par. 50, lines 29-32; Blad indicates that DSL connections are well known in the art of data communications.; Additionally, a DSL line (and T1, cable modem) implies a constant connection to the internet, via a standard telephone line.), allowing the administrator side to operate the coin laundry device remotely based on these near real time moving images of the inside of the store and the condition of the coin laundry device that is displayed on the monitor of the central control device (This claim language represents and intended use limitation for the claimed structural elements of the system, and is not accorded

patentable weight. Even if this language were given patentable weight, Kuroda discloses: “remotely managing a machine by means of a central control apparatus such as a personal computer or the like by connecting the machine controlled by a control device, e.g., a micro-computer with the central control apparatus via communication means”, Kuroda, col. 1, lines 8-13; and “wherein a plurality of clothes-washers and a plurality of dryers installed are used by the payment with coins or prepaid cards, when a management system that carries out centralized monitoring of the laundry machine to check the presence of failures, presence of troubles, and the sales amount and other information thereby to control the machine”, col. 1, lines 16-22)

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the laundry management system disclosed by Kuroda to include networked video cameras with pan, tilt and zoom capability that stream video data over the internet, as disclosed by Mottur, as well as the DSL constant internet connection disclosed by Blad. One of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have been motivated to modify the system of Kuroda in this way, since this would allow management personnel to control the live video image viewed on the central control device (“allow the network users to interactively control the cameras”, Mottur, par. 20, lines 6-7, wherein “video data can be provided in real-time”, par. 6, line 14), thus providing the ability to monitor specific details in the laundry store. Blad indicates that a DSL line is well known in the art of data communications (“a high bandwidth connection such as DSL, cable modem, T1, or other such connection method well known to those skilled in the data communication arts could be utilized”, Blad, par. 50, lines 29-32), and one skilled in the art would find it obvious to use a

high speed internet connection such as DSL for the purpose of network connecting video data signals. Although Mottur does not directly pertain to the field of coin laundry devices, a reference in a field different from that of applicant's endeavor may be reasonably pertinent if it is one which, because of the matter with which it deals, logically would have commended itself to an inventor's attention in considering his or her invention as a whole (MPEP 2141.01). The prior art of record provides common essential elements, including user-controllable networked video monitoring that sends video information over the internet/network, even though the prior art does not pertain to coin laundry, but rather real-time camera control devices. Furthermore, the elements disclosed by Mottur solve the pertinent problem (i.e., remote video monitoring with central control and website streaming). Additionally, the claimed invention is merely a combination of old elements, and in the combination, each element merely would have performed the same function as it did separately, and one of ordinary skill in the art would have recognized that the results of the combination were predictable.

Conclusion

17. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.
- Bicknell (US 2004/0267383) generally relates to an appliance control system, and in particular relates to a remote system for operational management of a commercial appliance enterprise such as coin operated laundry.¶

- Keret (US 5,386,362) for disclosing a management system for coin operated laundry machines at individual locations, the system including data transfer means at each machine.
- Kolls (US 6,321,985) for disclosing the networking of automated dispensing equipment which dispense products or services (hereinafter collectively referred to as vending machines), and particularly to networking multiple vending machines for operation by credit cards, debit cards, pre-pay cards, cash or coins
- Login (US 5,799,281) for disclosing a computer-automated laundry management system which is designed to improve access, control operation, record activities, and monitor multiple laundry machines in a facility.

18. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to SCOTT A. MATTIA whose telephone number is (571) 270-7787. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM..
19. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, JANICE MOONEYHAM can be reached on (571) 272-6805. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.
20. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197

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(toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/S.A.M./

/Dennis Ruhl/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3689